GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2135
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
PM VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to South Africa had signed any agreement or MOU with that country for strategic cooperation between the two countries, including nuclear energy and supporting India's case with the International Nuclear Energy Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether South Africa has given its support to India for nuclear fuel supplies;

(d) whether the two countries have also agreed to work for joint research and development in the defence sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) −(e) During Prime Minister's recent visit to South Africa, he signed the Tshwane Declaration with President Thabo Mbeki on reaffirming the strategic partnership between South Africa and India. The Tshwane Declaration commits the two countries to intensifying cooperation in a number of areas and raising the existing level of friendship and partnership to even higher levels.
On nuclear energy, the two leaders agreed to explore, approaches to cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under appropriate IAEA safeguards. They further agreed that international civilian nuclear cooperation, under appropriate IAEA safeguards, amongst countries committed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives could be enhanced through acceptable forward-looking approaches, consistent with their respective national and international obligations.

The document states that South Africa and India should work towards closer cooperation in the defence sector, including the possibility of joint research and development.